

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 28, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Claims 6-11, 14 and 16 are pending. Claims 6-11, 14 and 16 have been rejected. Claim 6 has been objected to. Claim 6 has been amended.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Office Action

Claim 6 was objected to because of an informality and has been amended accordingly. Specifically, claim 6 has been amended by replacing the term “portions” with the term “portion” in line 4. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-11, 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,722). Hagen et al. discloses a portable system for programming hearing aids. A PCMCIA port 18 of a host computer 10 is configured to receive a PCMCIA card 40 in order to receive a hearing aid program from the host computer 10.

The Examiner equivocates contacts 44 of PCMCIA card 40 as a “hardware interface connector positioned within the interior portion of the housing”, as recited by claim 6 (and similarly in claims 14 and 16). However, upon further review of the Hagen et al. reference at column 7, lines 56 and 57, Hagen et al. discloses a PCMCIA Card 40 which “has a first end 42 in which a number of contacts 44 are mounted.” Thus, Hagen et al. does not teach that the contacts 44 are located in the “interior portion of the housing” as claimed by claim 6 (and similarly in claims 14 and 16) of the present invention. FIG. 1 of Hagen et al. also does not teach this feature since the contacts 44 appear to be mounted on the first end 42.

Additionally, Hagen lacks a teaching of the claimed combined structure recited in claim 6 and similarly in claims 14 and 16. For example, Hagen et al. does not teach that the hardware interface connector has “between 1 and 120 receptacles” and the “hardware interface port having 120 pins” as claimed in claim 6. These features are also similarly claimed in claims 14 and 16 of the present invention. Furthermore, Hagen et al. lacks a teaching of “said receptacles further forming two rows in parallel such that each receptacle is positioned to be numbered corresponding to its position in one of the rows, wherein one of the two rows include receptacle position 1-60, the other of the two rows includes receptacle position 61-120, receptacle position 1 and 61 being located at corresponding ends of each row, receptacle position 60 and 120 being located at corresponding ends of each row, receptacle position 1 and 120 being located at opposite ends of each row, and receptacle position 60 and 61 being located at opposite ends of each row” as recited in claim 6. Again, these features are similarly claimed in claims 14 and 16 of the present invention.

In accordance with the M.P.E.P. §2143.03, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re: Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). “All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” *In re: Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494 196 (CCPA 1970). Since Hagen et al. does not teach the structure as claimed in claims 6, 14, and 16, Hagen et al. can not be said to teach or suggest the present invention as claimed. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-11 depend from independent claim 6 and are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as is claim 6.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order and such application is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned Patent Agent at 202-861-1538.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc W. Butler', is written over the printed name.

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE
IN THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for adding functionality to a portable electronic device, comprising:

a housing sized to be accepted by a housing port of a portable electronic device, the housing having an interior [portions] portion; and

a hardware interface connector positioned within the interior portion of the housing to be accepted by a hardware interface port of the portable electronic device, the hardware interface connector having between 1 and 120 receptacles, the hardware interface port having 120 pins;

said receptacles configured to correspond to a pin in the hardware interface port, said receptacles further forming two rows in parallel such that each receptacle is positioned to be numbered corresponding to its position in one of the rows, wherein one of the two rows includes receptacle positions 1 through 60, the other of the two rows includes receptacle positions 61 through 120, receptacle positions 1 and 61 being located at corresponding ends of each row, receptacle positions 60 and 120 being located at corresponding ends of each row, receptacle positions 1 and 120 being located at opposite ends of each row, and receptacle positions 60 and 61 being located at opposite ends of each row.